



The Chimes

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Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Interim Pastor: Michael Fletcher Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.



As one of your delegates to Annual Conference this year, I sat at a round table with seven other delegates, most from Virginia and Pennsylvania, and engaged in conversation around a "Compelling Vision" for the Church of the Brethren.

In the introduction to the Compelling Vision process, Moderator Samuel Sarpiya and Moderator-Elect Donita Keister pointed out that for 40 years, the Church of the Brethren has been wandering in a wilderness of conflict, primarily over differing approaches to the interpretation of Scripture, and differing understandings about homosexuality. The two moderators noted that: "In this wilderness we have found many oases of vital ministry in areas such as disaster relief and international partnerships in mission with Brethren around the world. We have been a voice for peace and have worked for justice in places where others are hesitant to go." In spite of differences, Brethren have continued the work of Jesus. How much more could have been accomplished if the Brethren followed their motto of "continuing the work of Jesus peacefully, simply and together?"

At the 2016 Annual Conference, the Council of District Executives was tasked with responding to an item of business relating to same-sex marriage. Their statement, presented to the 2017 Annual Conference, concluded: "To stay on the journey together, it is also crucial that the church discern the compelling vision that this body of Christ is called to pursue." Two teams representing denominational and district leadership have been called to guide the membership through a process of discerning, through a series of conversations, what we as a diverse denomination, are being called to do—together.

The Compelling Vision conversations began at the delegate tables at this year's Annual Conference. Non-delegates were also invited to participate in discussing and recording answers to a series of questions. All the written responses to these questions were collected and will be combined with the results of similar conversations throughout all Church of the Brethren districts and congregations. The process of discernment will culminate at the 2019 Annual Conference, at which all business sessions will be dedicated to reviewing the results of conversations throughout the denomination, and articulating a Compelling Vision for what God is calling the Church of the Brethren to do together. Following is the set of questions asked at Conference. ~Luella Cole

Compelling Vision Questions

Asked at 2018 AC

- We have been called to work together to develop a compelling vision for the Church of the Brethren. At the heart of that vision is a desire to live as Christ's disciples. What compels you to follow Jesus?
- Yesterday, we began our conversation about following Jesus. With that conversation in mind, what are one or two values that you think we who are participating in this process share?
- You've heard your conversations yesterday and your conversation today. What are the themes you see emerging?
- Why is it important for God's people to have a vision?
- What can make a vision for the Church of the Brethren compelling?
- What about developing a compelling vision gives you hope?
- What question do you hope someone asks you during the compelling vision process?



July and August Sermon Series - What We're Talking About When We Talk About _____.

We are in a period of time that some are calling post-Christian. What that means is that the culture around us no longer maintains a Christian ethic as a defining characteristic. Therefore, we can no longer assume that certain Christian doctrine will be understood and accepted simply because the church says so.

This requires us to be able to talk about things at a much deeper level than when our society was Christian in nature, which is what I hope to be doing in the morning messages through the end of August.

Here are the topics that I presently plan to speak on.

August 5 - Grace

August 12 - Jesus

August 19 - Peace

August 26 - The Soul

I want to emphasize that these are not at all set in stone and changes might occur. My reason for emphasizing that is that you are invited to suggest a topic that you might be interested in hearing about.

Pastor's Schedule

(When in Modesto) Monday & Wednesday through Friday - In office 8:30 to 11:30

Tuesday - Pastor's Sabbath. Other times by appointment, contact me by email at mfletcher21625@aol.com or by phone at 313-303-1227.



July 31 - Aug. 20 - in Modesto

Aug. 21-25 - Working from Southern Cal

Aug. 25 - Sept 9 - in Modesto

Sept. 10 - 16 - vacation

Sept. 17 - 19 - Working from Southern Cal.

Pastor's Roaming Office

(Check church's Facebook page for updates)

Pastor's Roaming Office is an opportunity for anyone to chat in an informal manner about what is happening at the Modesto COB. For serious concerns setting an appointment would probably be better.



I would welcome suggestions as to locations and times to conduct these gatherings.

Saturday, August 4, 8:30 am - Panera Bread, 3401 Dale Rd.

Thursday, August 9, 3:30 pm - Starbucks, Oakdale and Merle

Saturday, August 11, 8:30 am - Michael's Pizza Bar and Grill, 500 N. Carpenter Rd (I'm not eating pizza for breakfast, they have a breakfast menu!)

Friday, August 17, 1:00 pm - Ralston's Goat, 1001 10th St.

Saturday, August 18, 8:30 am - Mr. T's Donuts, Tully and Standiford

Sunday Morning Study

We are meeting on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 in the church library for a time of thought provoking conversation based on a 10-12 minute video that takes a look at a spiritual issue from what is often a very unique perspective. Some of our conversations have been quite interesting as we consider these various topics. Each week is a unique topic and so anyone can just drop in for a session and join in the discussion. This series will continue through Sept. 2.



One of the things that I would like to see happen before leaving in November is for the groundwork to be laid for a Modesto Church of the Brethren Young Adult Ministry. To that end I'd like to invite the young adults of the congregation to join me Thursday, August 30 at Buckhorn Bar B Q in the Vintage Fair Mall anytime between 5:30 and 8:00 to socialize and discuss next steps in organizing a group.

Childcare at the church will be provided and a MODCOB Happy Meal will be served to the children who are there. If you will be using the childcare, please RSVP so we know how many meals we need.

If you're not sure if you qualify as a young adult and you haven't yet cashed a Social Security check, come on out and join us. It never hurts to have a few "wiser" persons to provide some insight and help organize. Hope to see a lot of you there on the 30th.





Hold in prayer Jim Boardman's brothers, both of whom are ill. One is in hospice care.

Keep in your thoughts the family of Jim Costello's co-worker who recently died.

Ava Johnson, Bill Johnson's granddaughter, is home after surgery for a brain tumor.

Continue to hold in your prayers the Glendale Church of the Brethren after the sudden loss of Pastor Randy Short, and also keep Pastor Michael Fletcher in your prayers, as Pastor Randy was his good friend.

Continue to pray for Terhesa Gamboa's friend Robert, who is in jail, but is trying to go back to rehab.

Rejoice that Steven Gokey, Renee's son, has custody of his daughter.

Pray for safe travel for Gail Kristaponis, as she drives to her new home in Chapala, Mexico. Derek Castle is accompanying her, and will return with pictures!

Jolinda Reddy reminds us to keep in our prayers all teachers and students soon returning to school.

Remember Maddy Beth Harty recovering from extraction of her wisdom teeth.

Pray for all those in the path of the wildfires all over California and other states and countries, as well as those battling the flames.

As always, keep in your prayers those who are ill, those in pain, those who grieve, and especially those whose troubles are too deep for words.



Sunday, August 5th - Linda Flores & Karen Seip

Sunday, August 12th - Jim & Kim Boardman

Sunday, August 19th - David F. Messamer
& Donna Heiny

Sunday, August 26th - Joann Ewert
& Bev Jefferies

Welcome Sign

Some time ago, I saw a picture of this sign online and ordered one. It has been in my front yard ever since. I wonder if we should get one to display in our church's yard, maybe near the marquee. Let me know what you think! ~Luella





Birthday Dinner–August 8

Don't forget our Birthday Party we are planning just for YOU.

We will have pizza, cake and ice cream.

You need to sign up so we have enough pizza and if you're able, sign up to bring a Birthday Cake. You will find the sign up board in the narthex.

To add to the fun we are asking you to bring a baby photo for a game we are planning.

See you August 8th at 6pm.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in advance.

~Fellowship and Recreation



The Senior Ministries group will meet at the church on Thursday, August 16th, at 12 noon for a \$7.00 lunch. Following lunch, Derek Castle will present a program: "Adventures in the Snow" - a cross-Sierra winter hike, plus photos of Mexico - the area where Gail Kristaponis will be moving. Be sure to sign up on the poster in the narthex by August 12th to help us plan for lunch. See you on August 16th for : FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP!!!



A REQUEST FOR HELP

Our church was contacted by Katie Curler, who is recruiting volunteers to help with the Modesto Walk to End Alzheimer's. The Walk will take place on Saturday, **September 8**. There are volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups who are interested in supporting operations on event day. Community service hours are available. Volunteer shifts are available from: 5am-8am, 7:30am-10:30am, 8am-11am, and 10am-1pm. Volunteer activities include: Registration, Tent/Booth Attendants Setup and cleanup, Water Stations Route Monitors Cheer Station Advocacy. To learn more or to request a volunteer application, please contact **before August 18**: Katie Curler, Volunteer Engagement Manager kcurler@alz.org or 916-930-9080



Family FUN Night is August 17. Come at 6 PM for food, fellowship, and FUN!



Do you have an announcement you would like the congregation to see on the big screen, before Sunday worship begins? Please send any announcements to Anita Pedersen-Pennock at pedersea@gmail.com by Wednesday evenings.

Last Monday and Tuesday, Bike and Build filled our library with bikes, and the Gathering Place with sleeping bags, while Karleen, Kim, and Luella fed 28 young adults as they traveled from Florida to Santa Cruz, helping Habitat build affordable housing along the way. We think this is the fifth year we have hosted Bike and Build by providing a place to sleep, take showers and EAT!

*Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by **Thursday, August 9.** Use article name in the subject line and email to: chimes@modcob.org*

The Editor thanks you.

The Condensed Calendar



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday
10am Deacons' Meeting

Thursday

Friday

Saturday
8:30am Pastor's Roaming Office--Panera Bread, 3401 Dale Road

Next Sunday
9:30am Sunday Morning Study
11am Worship

- August 8 6pm Birthday Event
- August 9 5pm Ladies Night Out - Skewers Kabob House 821 L Street
- August 16 12pm Sr. Ministry Event--
Adventures in the Snow
- August 17 6pm F.U.N. Night
- August 19 6pm Prospector Potluck -Johnsons
- August 19-26 Hosting Family Promise
- August 30 5:30pm Young Adult Gathering



- September 3 Labor Day-Office Closed
- September 16 12:30pm Church Picnic
- September 20 12pm Sr. Ministry Event:
Forcier's trip to Zion, Bryce Arches and Grand Canyon
- September 22 First Day of Autumn
- September 20 6pm FUN Night



- October 20 All Church Work Day
- October 25 Sr. Ministry Event-Trip to Knights Ferry & Oakdale Cheese Factory